

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 079877

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (NIMETZ, MATTHEW)

SUBJECT: C STAFF NOTES ON EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

FOR COUNSELOR NIMETZ ONLY FROM C STAFF

1. PRESS INTEREST CHRISTOPHER MISSION: EVERYONE REMOTELY INVOLVED HAS BEEN PEPPERED WITH CALLS. MAIN QUESTION HAS BEEN WHETHER TRIP IS IN RESPONSE TO DEADLINE OF "APRIL 30" PLACED ON US BY TURKS FOR PASSAGE OF DCA. ANSWER BEING GIVEN THAT NO "DEADLINE" BUT TURKS ARE HIGHLY DESIROUS OF CLARIFICATION AND IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH US ASAP. YOU WERE CALLED BY NY TIMES AND POST REPORTERS WHO WANT TO TALK TO YOU UPON YOUR RETURN. THE TIMES HAS ALSO CALLED KEY CONGRESSIONAL STAFFS. KNOWING HOW OUR BETTER JOURNALISTS WORK THEY WILL PIECE TOGETHER AN INTERESTING STORY BY

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WEDNESDAY MORNING.

2. HIRC LEADERSHIP STAFF HAVE CONTACTED H AND EUR FOR INDICATION OF WHAT YOU ALL ARE DOING. NELSON HAS AGREED TO MEET WITH HAMILTON ON THURSDAY MORNING TO TELL THEM VERY GENERALLY ABOUT YOUR VISIT AND THAT WE ARE EXPLORING AND CONSIDERING SOME ALTERNATIVES. HE WILL TELL HAMILTON YOU

HOPE TO BRIEF HIM EARLY NEXT WEEK. DOES THIS GENERAL APPROACH MEET WITH YOUR APPROVAL?? WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THESE PEOPLE NOT FEEL WE ARE IGNORING THEM.

3. THE VISIT OF AIR FORCE SECRETARY STETSON. I GOT CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE THIS MORNING WHEN MRS. CHAYES TRIED OUT SOME COMPROMISE IDEAS ON ME. THERE WERE TWO CHOICES: (1) YOU SHOULD DECIDE WHETHER HE SHOULD CANCEL BASED ON YOUR READING ON THE SITUATION IN ANKARA WEDNESDAY NIGHT. (2) OR, WE SHOULD AGREE THAT STETSON CHANGE HIS SCHEDULE TO VISIT ATHENS FIRST (APRIL 4 AND 5) AND ANKARA LAST (APRIL 12 AND 13). I CHECKED WITH BARBOUR AND SIENA WHO BOTH STRONGLY BELIEVED WE SHOULD STICK TO THEIR NEGATIVE POSITION. I HAVE BOWED OUT AND AM LETTING SIENA AND MCGIFFERT DEAL WITH PROBLEM AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO UNLESS YOU HAVE OTHER IDEAS.

4. MY APOLOGIES FOR LATE ARRIVAL OF CABLE ON EFFECTS OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO. THE LEGAL BUREAU FELT COMPELLED TO COMPLETELY REDRAFT PENTAGON SUBMISSION.

5. TURKISH PD. WE RECEIVED SIGNED COMEBACK COPY OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRANSMITTAL DATED MARCH 24. THEREFORE, H WILL MAIL THE NAMSA LETTER WEDNESDAY MORNING. COOPER

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